

QA-98

Sterling Price Farm  
Centreville vicinity  
Private

early 19th century, 1893

The dwelling house on the Sterling Price Farm consists of a brick side hall, single parlor plan house dating to the early 19th century and a frame addition constructed in 1893. A rear kitchen wing probably also dates to 1893, but may have been moved to the present location at that time from elsewhere on the farm. The exterior appearance of the house is for the most part a result of the Victorian renovation, while the interior of the original brick section retains much of the original Federal woodwork. This includes a handsome walnut stair, two mantels, and a variety of other trim.

Of equal interest to the house is the post-and-plank meat house in the side yard. This is one of the finest and most carefully preserved examples of this construction technique surviving in the county. The wrought and double-struck nails used in the roof framing suggest a date of circa 1800-20, making it one of the earliest surviving examples in the county. The original interior down braces in this type of construction are unusual; the solid raftered roof is unique.

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Part of Welch Ridge, Hap Hazard, and Emory's Branch

AND/OR COMMON

Sterling Price, Jr. Farm, Seegar Farm

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

West side Rolling Branch Road

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Queen Anne's

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☒ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Sterling F. Price, et al

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

3925 Beech Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21211

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Queen Anne's County Courthouse

Liber #: Wills WTB 1

Folio #: 25

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

| CONDITION                                |                                       | CHECK ONE                                   | CHECK ONE   |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT       | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR            | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED    |   |   |

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Sterling Price Farm is located on the west side of Rolling Branch Road, just south of U. S. Route 301, approximately two miles south of Centreville.

The main house was constructed in two parts. The original section, dating to the early 19th century, is of brick construction, 2 1/2 stories high, three bays wide, and one room deep, with a flush chimney centered on the north end of a pitched gable roof. In 1893 the house was enlarged two bays to the south to form a five bay, center hall plan with end chimneys. This addition was made in frame, and continued the wall height and roof line of the original brick dwelling. A two story frame wing was then added to the rear of the 2 1/2 story addition. In addition to the dwelling house, there is an early post-and-plank meathouse adjacent to the south wall of the rear wing and a post-Civil War granary and crib to the southwest of the house. To the west are the remains of a heavy timber frame barn that collapsed in recent years.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.1 DESCRIPTION

The front facade of the dwelling house faces east, toward Rolling Bridge Road. The original brick section is laid in five-course bond with no water table, belt course, or corbeled cornice. The door is located in the south bay on the first floor, with two large 2/2 windows to the north. There are three 2/2 windows across the second floor, and six-light cellar windows below each first floor opening. Both jambs of the door opening have been reworked and all of the first and second floor window openings have been enlarged. The entrance door is a highstyle Eastlake door with sidelights and a transom. The frame 1893 addition to the south has two 2/2 windows on each floor. It rests on a continuous brick foundation and is covered with plain horizontal weatherboards. The roof of the early house was extended to the south, and a cross gable was constructed in the center of the enlarged facade, straddling the two sections of the house. The cross gable is flanked on each side by a single 2/2 pitched roof dormer window. The roof is now covered with asphalt shingles and the eaves are boxed. The early chimney on the south gable was rebuilt with a characteristic Victorian corbeled cap. Two bricks in the east face of this chimney are inscribed with

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.2 DESCRIPTION

the date "1893" and the name "F. YEATS". A similar flush chimney rises at the center of the south gable. A one story open porch protects the center three bays of the enlarged house on this facade.

The north gable wall of the original brick section is also laid in five-course bond, painted red below the "water table" level and a creamy white above. The only openings in this wall are a pair of four-light windows flanking the chimney in the upper gable and a bulkhead cellar entrance in the foundation to the right of the chimney. The Victorian box cornice returns at the corners and is carried up the gable eaves.

The rear facade of the brick section is also laid in five-course bond with the same painted "water table". The door is in the south bay, with two 2/2 windows to the left. On the second floor, there is a 9/6 window downset above the door to light the stair landing, and two 2/2 windows to the left. The 2/2 windows are set in enlarged openings, but the 9/6 window is original and the opening has not been reworked. The door opening is also untampered, and is fitted with a handsome six-panel Federal door. There are two six-light cellar windows but no dormers.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.3 DESCRIPTION

The rear wing covers the majority of the rear facade of the frame addition, leaving one 2/2 window exposed on each floor in the north bay.

The south wall of the rear ell is flush with the south gable wall of the frame addition. There are two 2/2 windows on the first and second floor, and two four-light windows in the upper gable, all flanking the flush chimney. The eaves are boxed and the cornice returns at the gables.

There is no seam in the brick foundation between the frame addition and the rear ell, but the drop in the interior floor level is reflected in the height of the foundation, which is seven courses lower under the wing. There are doors in the center and west bays on the first floor of the wing, and a 6/6 window in the east bay. Three 6/6 windows are ranged across the second story. The siding is plain horizontal weatherboards with beaded cornerboards; the cornice is boxed. A modern exterior stove chimney rises at the center of the west gable of the rear wing. The only opening is a modern window to the right of the chimney on the first floor. On the north wall of the wing, there is a door in the center bay on the first floor, flanked by 6/6

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.4 DESCRIPTION

windows, and three 6/6 windows on the second floor.

The interior of the original brick section consists of a broad, side stair hall across the south gable end and a large parlor to the north. The stair rises against the south wall of the hall to a landing at the west or rear of the hall. It is an open-string stair with turned walnut newels, a simple ramped walnut rail and square walnut balusters. The carriage piece has a broken-face fascia and beaded edge but is otherwise undecorated. The area below the carriage is finished with vertical beaded paneling. A six-panel Federal door opens to a closet under the landing. The architrave on this door and the rear door consists of a beaded fascia board with a steep Grecian ogee/astragal backband. The doorway between the stair hall and the north parlor has paneled Federal soffits and jamb and a six-panel Federal door, with later Victorian architrave trim.

The fireplace projects into the north parlor from the center of the north gable wall. The mantel is a large board surround with paneled pilasters supporting paneled side blocks and center block and a rich, complex molded shelf that breaks forward above the side blocks. The shelf is dominated by Federal moldings, but Greek

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.5 DESCRIPTION

ogees are evident as well. The inner edge of the board surround is enriched with an astragal molding as well. All of the architrave and baseboard trim in this room is Victorian. A patch in the plaster walls marks the location of an original chairrail that once encircled the room. The random width flooring is original.

On the second floor, the northeast corner of the hall is partitioned to form a large storage closet. This is apparently an original feature, as the architrave trim and a shelf support inside match the early Federal trim that survives elsewhere in the house. The west window, over the stair landing, has splayed jambs, early 9/6 sash, and the original architrave trim. This trim has also survived on the east window in the hall, but the splayed jambs were altered to allow for the wider 2/2 Victorian sash. Early architrave trim has also survived on the doorway from the hall to the north parlor and from the hall to the south addition. It is unclear whether the latter door is original, indicating an original two story wing was demolished when the frame Victorian addition was made, or whether the architrave trim was reused from one



## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.6 DESCRIPTION

of the parlor doors. Probably the trim is reused. The plaster walls in the hall are painted mustard yellow up to within 15-18 inches of the ceiling, and are creamy white above this point. This paint scheme is quite similar to the first floor stair hall at Fincastle (QA-60) a large Federal house near Price. A seam in the plaster work may be evidence of an archway in the second floor hall, and it is significant to note that the paint covers the plaster patch.

The mantel in the north chamber is Federal, similar to the first floor mantel, while the rest of the trim is Victorian. This room is painted pink, a color also found at Fincastle.

The third floor consists of a stair hall and chamber and was renovated in the early 1970's but was never completed. Early architraves, beaded baseboard and wide flooring have all survived. A closet in the northwest corner of the stair hall is fitted with a beaded batten door constructed with wrought nails and beveled battens.

The roof is constructed of hewn and whip-sawn common rafters secured at the ridge with pegged mortise-and-tenon joints and reinforced with half-lapped collar

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.7 DESCRIPTION

beams nailed with wrought nails.

There is a full cellar below the original brick section of the house, divided into two rooms by a brick wall below the first floor hall partition. The present bulkhead entrance in the north gable wall appears to be cut-in, not original. There is a small fireplace on the north gable wall with a simple mantel, and a root cellar in the southwest corner of the north room, screened off with vertical slats. The ceiling has never been plastered, leaving the whitewashed, hewn and whip-sawn joists exposed. There is one curious feature to the cellar. An original opening in the center of the south gable wall leads into a small cellar room under the Victorian section. The brick foundation walls of this room are not keyed into the foundation of the original house, yet the exterior face of that foundation wall is laid up in a careless, unfinished manner well above ground level. This would seem to indicate an original wing of some sort, but no other evidence appears to survive.

When the frame Victorian addition was made in 1893, the original side hall plan was expanded to create a center hall with flanking parlors. On the first floor,

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.8 DESCRIPTION

this addition served simply as the south parlor, or possibly as a dining room. An enclosed, secondary stair rises against the rear wall directly into a small bedroom at the south end of the second floor. The mantel in the first floor parlor is probably mid-19th century in date, and may have been salvaged from an earlier wing. A door at the south end of the west wall leads to the rear wing.

The second floor consists of a short hall along the east facade, a small chamber behind the hall, and a second, larger chamber to the south. The latter chamber can be reached directly from the first floor parlor using the secondary stair. A door in the west wall of this south chamber opens into an odd storeroom in the rear wing. This room is about four feet lower than the floor level of the chamber, and can only be reached by using a steep set of steps.

The third floor consists of a single large room. The roof framing is mitred and nailed at the ridge and notched over a flat false plate at the eaves.

There is a large kitchen and a pantry on the first floor of the rear wing, with an enclosed servant's stair leading up to segregated chambers over the

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.9 DESCRIPTION

kitchen. These rooms were presumably used either by the kitchen help or by hired farmhands. This wing is said to have been moved to its present location from elsewhere on the farm. If so, it was no doubt done at the same time the frame addition was constructed in 1893.

Meat House

To the south of the rear wing is a post-and-plank meat house. It is 12 feet square, oriented on a north-south axis, with the door in the center of the east wall. The exterior is covered with wood shingle siding and roof; the eaves are boxed. Beaded and tapered rakeboards have survived on the gable eaves; wide horizontal weather boards remain visible under the shingle siding.

Inside the meat house, the early post-and-plank framing is clearly visible. The planks are hewn and whip-sawn and average 2 1/2 to 3 inches thick by 8 to 9 inches wide. They are set into individual mortises in the corner posts and are secured with wood pegs driven in from the outside. The corner posts average 7 inches square and are reinforced with original

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.10 DESCRIPTION

downbraces mortised into the posts. The horizontal plank walls are stabilized by vertical pegs driven down through the wall midway between the posts, similar to the pegged walls of the meat house at Cabin Neck (QA-204) on Kent Island.

The roof is the most unusual feature of the building. It is constructed of 25 rafter pairs, spaced so closely that only 2 to 3 inches separates each pair. Five "principal" rafter pairs are reinforced with collar beams that are half-lapped and nailed with wrought nails. The rafters are half-lapped and pegged at the peak and rest on flat false plates supported by the ceiling joists. The gables are framed with vertical studs nailed to the gable rafter pairs. Riven clapboard siding survives on the exterior of both gables, covered with later wide, sawn weatherboards. Other riven boards are nailed to the inner face of the gable framing with double struck nails. These boards and the unusual raftered roof are both evidently precautions taken to insure the security of the meat house. Both features are unique in Queen Anne's County.

| PERIOD  |  | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW |   |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|---|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC          | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC  | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING      | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION            |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499            | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC     | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION            | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW                    | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE             |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599            | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE             | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS               | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE             | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE           |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION               | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY               | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799            | <input type="checkbox"/> ART                     | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING             | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC                  | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER             |  |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE                | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT  | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY             | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION      |  |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-     | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS          | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY                | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT    | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)     |  |  |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION               |   |  |  |  |

SPECIFIC DATES enlarged 1893

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The dwelling house on the Sterling Price Farm consists of a brick side hall, single parlor plan house dating to the early 19th century and a frame addition constructed in 1893. A rear kitchen wing probably also dates to 1893, but may have been moved to the present location at that time from elsewhere on the farm. The exterior appearance of the house is for the most part a result of the Victorian renovation, while the interior of the original brick section retains much of the original Federal woodwork. This includes a handsome walnut stair, two mantels, and a variety of other trim.

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CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 8.1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

circa 1800-1820, making it one of the earliest known examples. The original interior down braces in this type of construction are unusual; the solid raftered roof is unique.

A preliminary title search of the property indicates that the farm was purchased by William J. Price in 1885, and was bequeathed to his son E. Sterling Price.<sup>(1)</sup> The 1885 deed refers to the property as the "Seegar Farm" and cites an equity case settling the estate of James M. Seegar, who died in 1872.<sup>(2)</sup> Seegar purchased the property in 1855 from Daniel C. H. Emory.<sup>(3)</sup> Daniel Emory inherited the land from John K. B. Emory, who died intestate in 1830.<sup>(4)</sup> John K. B. Emory purchased the farm in 1810 for \$3,000 from John D. Emory.<sup>(5)</sup> The boundary description in this deed refers to "the mill pond", undoubtedly a reference to the pond at Taylor's Mill (QA-246). The late 19th century deeds also include references to Taylor's Mill Pond. The deed executed in 1810 is the earliest reference that has been found to the property. John D. Emory most likely inherited the property.

Footnotes

(1) Last Will and Testament of William J. Price.  
Wills Liber WTB 1, folio 25. Probated October 12,  
1916.

Deeds Liber SCD 7, folio 428. November 20,  
1885.

(2) Last Will and Testament of James M. Seegar  
Wills Liber WAJ 1, folio 85. Probated December 3,  
1872.

(3) Deeds Liber JP 2, folio 469. June 4, 1855.

(4) Administration Accounts No. 3924 (1830).

(5) Deeds Liber STW 9, folio 288. June 19, 1810.



**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

**Orlando Ridout V, Historic Sites Surveyor**

ORGANIZATION

**Queen Anne's County Historical Society**

DATE

**7/21/80**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

**Centreville**

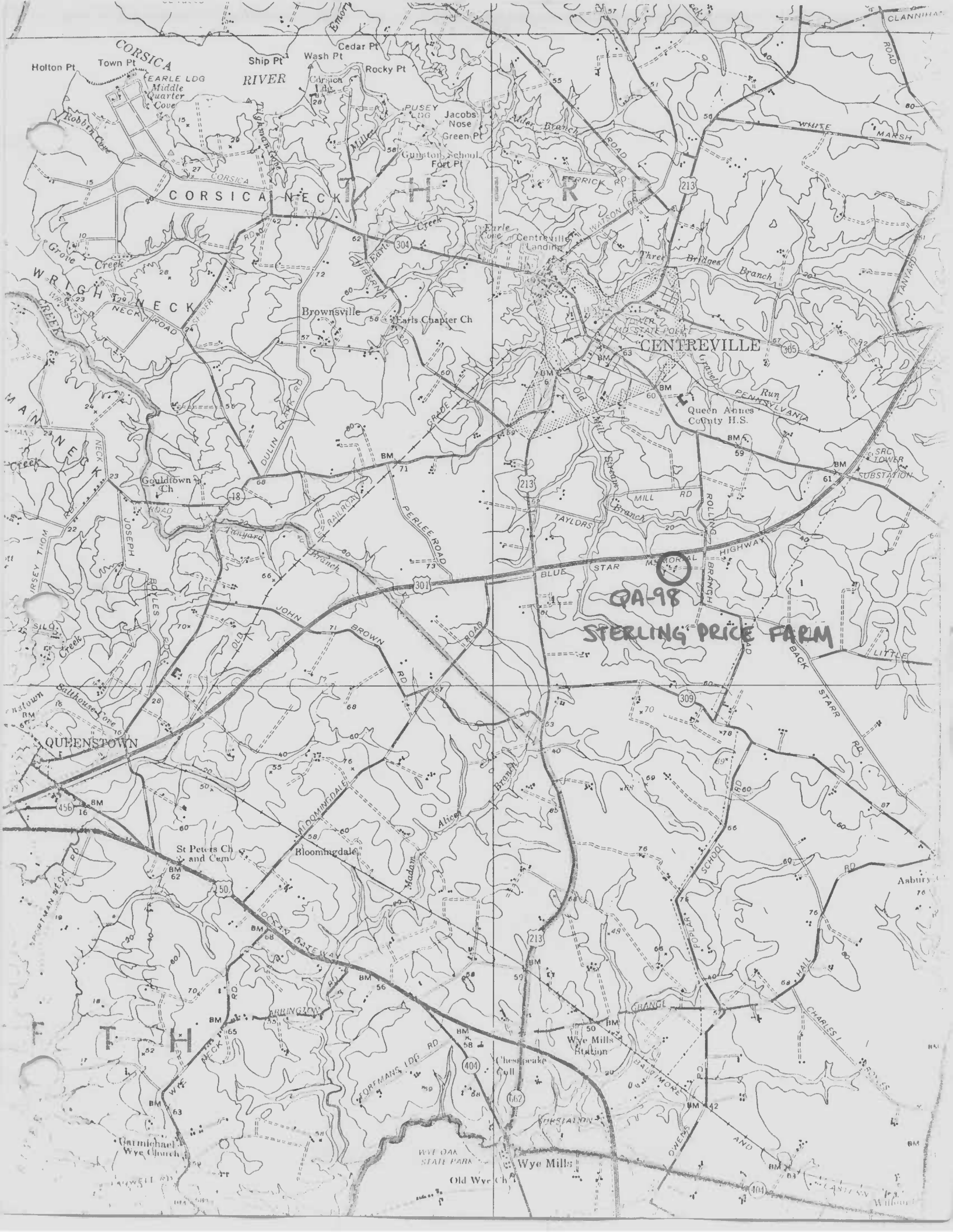
STATE

**Maryland****Field Notebook QA-XV; Recorded February 14, 1980.**

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438





QA-98     Sterling Price, Jr. Farm  
            Centreville vicinity  
            Orlando Ridout V 1981  
            East (front) facade



QA-98

Sterling Price, Jr. Farm  
Centreville vicinity  
Orlando Ridout V 1981  
View from Southeast



QA-98     Sterling Price, Jr. Farm  
            Centreville vicinity  
            Orlando Ridout V 1981  
            Rear (west) facade





QA-98

Sterling Price, Jr. Farm  
Centreville vicinity  
Orlando Ridout V 1981  
Post-and-Plank Meat House



QA. # 98

Sterling Price, Jr. Farm